

MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

HALLOWEEN HAVOC SPECIAL EDITION

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 5

VOL. 2, NO. 19

In Thunderdome

FUNK KEEPS RECORD INTACT VS. FLAIR; LOSES HALLOWEEN

HAVOC MAIN EVENT WITH MUTA IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA ----- With an assist from terminator Ole Anderson, Ric Flair and Sting defeated Terry Funk and Great Muta in 23:00 of the Thunderdome main event at HALLOWEEN HAVOC '89 here Saturday night. As Sting was crashing onto Funk while Flair held a figure-4 leglock, heel terminator Gary Hart was knocked by Anderson, tossing his conceding towel in the air.

Flair caught Funk with an early series of chops and dumped Terry over the top rope before tagging in Sting at 2:05. Sting slammed Funk right into one of the square slots in the Thunderdome cage. Funk sold like crazy for the first four minutes. Sting military pressed Muta into Funk at 4:40.

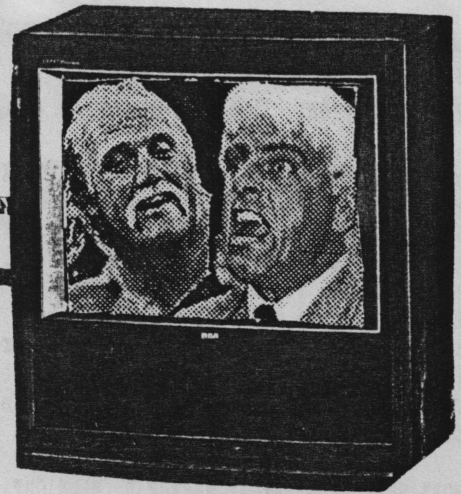
Sting creamed Muta into the cage at 6:00 and tried to ram him through the slot but Muta rallied with a series of martial arts moves and a high legdrop before throwing Sting out at 7:00. Muta & Funk then scored a series of elbows on Sting before Flair tossed out Muta at 8:20. Flair and Funk locked up again and Flair suplexed Terry. Sting creamed Muta's head into the mat and followed likewise on Funk.

Sting went for the scorpion on Muta at 9:45 but Funk saved with a clothesline. Flair and Funk climb up the fence and Terry takes a tremendous bump before Muta tries to climb out, too, and Sting follows. Terry tries to grab the top of the cage and Flair chops him down, then plays Tarzan, swinging from a rope to get more leverage on Funk. Sting, meanwhile, military pressed Muta while Funk continued to hang from the cage. But Muta, who had rolled under the ring, attacked Flair and the two traded heavy chops.

With Funk still playing Cheetah as Sting kicks him from a swinging rope, Flair cinched the figure-4 in on Muta at 15:15 before breaking it up. Muta rallied and attacked Flair with a chop and locked in a reverse Indian deathlock on the NWA world champion. Meanwhile, Funk ties Sting up in the cage with a rope. Flair is worked over by both Terry and Muta and is double piledriven. But Sting is freed by terminator Ole Anderson and Sting does a Johnny Weismuller dive onto Funk from at least 15 feet high. Funk's leg was in pain and Flair scored with an atomic drop on the leg as Muta and Sting chase each other to the top again. All 4 finally came back in and began to brawl.

Muta attempted to chop referee Bruno Sammartino, who kayoed Muta out of the ring. Flair locked in the figure-4 and Sting crashed down onto Funk's chest with three compressions from the top rope. As Hart entered, ostensibly to interfere, Anderson caught Hart, knocking his towel into the air. Sammartino saw the towel, waving an end to the match in 23:00.

MATCH RATING: DRAW. On television, this was a hard match to watch and I sense it was at the Civic Center as the heat was not as sustained as for some later matches.



Keeps Belt

LUGER RALLIES FROM PILLMAN

AERIALS IN U.S. TITLE MATCH

PHILADELPHIA --- Surviving five late near-falls, Lex Luger borrowed a move from Eddie Gilbert to defeat Brian Pillman Saturday night at NWA HALLOWEEN HAVOC to keep the U.S. title. It was air vs. power as Pillman scored with a whip, backrop, dropkick and under-the-ropes kick on Luger at 2:25 and a chase ensued. Luger dodged an Air Pillman at 3:15. Lex rallied at 6:20 with a forearm, kick and shoulder smash. Lex was caught in a dropkick at 7:08 and Pillman returned to an armbar resthold.

Brian scored a 2½ count with a flying inverted arm scissors at 8:55. But he missed an Air Pillman badly at 10:12. Lex went for a modified gourdbuster and slam on ropes at 10:55. But Pillman traded Flair chops with heavy Luger clotheslines at 11:49. The crowd went berserk.

A vertical suplex at 12:40 didn't pin Pillman but Lex threw Brian out at 13:28. Brian rallied for a 2-count sunset flip at 14:10. Pillman scored 3 near falls with aerials and a sunset flip but Luger rallied for a spinebuster and as the two were bounding off the ropes, Lex gave Brian the Eddie Gilbert Hot shot to win it at 16:45. POWERSLAM-PLUS...intensity really built with crowd evenly split.

MORE HAVOC HIGHLIGHTS
ON PAGE TWO

TOM ZENK D. MIKE ROTUNDO: Lots of SYRACUSE SUX chants and plenty of heat in a physical opener, though there were a bit too many restholds in the middle. Rotundo tossed Zenk out at 9:14 and kicked him back out twice before applying the abdominal stretch at 11:20. Mike then went for a vertical suplex but hesitated and Zenk kicked out on 2 3/4. As Rotundo went for a whip into the ropes, Z-Man reversed but Mike went for a flying cross body block. But as he connected, Zenk reversed the move into a grapevine for the pin at 13:23. **RATING:** DRAW...Zenk better than on CLASH but Mike carried.

SAMOAN SWAT TEAM/SAMOAN SAVAGE D. MIDNIGHT EXPRESS/STEVE WILLIAMS: Samoans do their "out of control" act early and take it outside in first 2 minutes. Stan Lane scores at 2:23 with dropkick & clothesline over the top on Tonga. Bobby scores heavy on offense at 4:00 before tagging in Williams at 4:40 & Doc cleans house to pop the crowd. Steve also powers a series of lineman's blocks at 6:30. Fatu turns the tide on Stan at 7:30 with a forearm before Samu strikes w. a savate kick. Bobby tried a bulldog on Tonga at 11:30 but Tonga reversed and crotchposted Eaton before throwing him out. Two Samoans then double crotched Bobby on the railing. Eaton did an enormous sell job for 5 minutes before finally tagging Doc at 17:10. All six brawled but as Oliver Humperdink jumped on the apron, Jim Cornette clobbered Ollie w. his tennis racket. But Fatu crashed Lane right into Corny's tennis racket & scored the fall at 18:20. **POWERSLAM...**solid work here.

TOMMY RICH D. CUBAN ASSASSIN: Refrigerator time. Tommy has become the Rodney Dangerfield of the NWA, with lots of **TOMMY RICH SUX** chants and no heat here. Rich went for a clumsy sunset flip at 2:20 and the crowd booed. Lots of restholds in what much too long & was simply not a pay-per-view match. Rich won in 8:25 w. Thesz press amid a big chorus of boos. **BOMB.**

(NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP) FREEBIRDS D. DYNAMIC DUDES: At least in Philly, the Freebirds were the babyfaces, simply because the fans just didn't like the Dudes. After a spectacular ring entrance, a good early offensive show evolved into a double dropkick on Garvin to clean house at 4:40. Johnny Ace scored a double headscissors on both 'Birds at 7:55 but after a 2-count on a rolling reverse, Hayes decked Johnny, who had to sell for about 3 minutes amid an unbelievable pro-Freebird crowd. Finally, Ace ducked a DDT at 10:50 and tagged Shane, who rallied and the Dudes set up a wipeout but Michael tripped up Shane & Garvin fell on him for the fall at 11:25 to a ring of cheers. **POWERSLAM...**but I'm betting the Midnights get cheered perpetually vs. the Dudes.

DOOM D. STEINER BROTHERS: Steiners jump Doom before bell & full-scale brawl erupted. Steiners scored double belly-to-back suplexes at :22 to clean house. Scott creamed Butch Reed on rail & both Dooms were clotheslined over the top. Rick followed with 2 stiff Steinerlines at 2:35. Reed rallied for reverse atomic drop at 4:08. But Scott tagged in for flying Steinerline at 4:32. At 7:24, Scott is tripped up by Reed & Ron Simmons double slams Scott on rail. Doom goes to slow offensive buildup that didn't draw great heat. Ron scores 2 count on a powerslam at 12:00 & both doubleslammed Scott at 12:20. Rick finally tags in at 14:00 and all 4 come in for a brawl. **WOMAN** climbs to apron as Rick is about to pin Reed but as Rick fends off Simmons, **WOMAN** loads Reed's mask, he butts Rick & pins him at 15:24. **DRAW-PLUS...**well-booked but Simmons & Reed lack something.

ROAD WARRIORS D. SKYSCRAPERS BY DQ: This match may not have been drawing a lot of money around the U.S. but it had the crowd going in Philly. Early offense from the Road Warriors. Animal's early clotheslines chased Danny Spivey and then Hawk, after Spivey didn't sell two shoulder smashes, crashed him out of the ring with a flying torpedo.

Hawk & Sid Vicious had a test of strength which Sid won early but Hawk rallied & rolled Sid off with a monkey flip and clothesline. Animal clobbered Spivey with a clothesline at 5:48. But Vicious tagged in and decked Hawk at 6:30 and went for his flying helicopter at 6:48. Spivey gained a 2-count on Hawk and double kicked him out at 7:22. Vicious slammed Hawk on the rail at 7:36. Spivey followed with a standing suplex. Both Skyscrapers then worked over Hawk with power moves before Sid came in with a choke.

Hawk tried a kick on Danny but Spivey countered with a clothesline. But Hawk rallied for a suplex at 9:35. Paul Ellering tried to rally the crowd and Hawk finally forced a foot in Spivey's face on a splash attempt and tagged in Animal at 11:00. A 4-way brawl erupts and as Animal powerslams Spivey for a sure win, Teddy Long decks Paul Ellering with Norman's metal key and Nick Patrick finally catches Spivey with the key & disqualifies the Skyscrapers.

Vicious & Spivey work over Animal with the key but Hawk finally recovers and crashes off the top onto Spivey, gets the key away from Sid and beats both 'Scrapers with the key & runs them out.

RATING: DRAW....technically, this was not a classic match but it had the crowd intensity and set up future matches well.

HAVOC HAPPENINGS

Flair appeared to be favoring his right leg at the end of the Thunderdome. It was difficult to determine if he had popped something cinching in the figure-4 that long...A followup to the STARRCADE speculation on Page 8: not only will there be a "Masters of the Ring" (the NWA may call it Ironman) singles competition but I think a tag team masters round-robin will occur between the Steiners, Doom, Skyscrapers and Road Warriors. If so, that will mean 12 matches on STARRCADE and if the Freebirds do not lose to the Road Warriors on CLASH IX, your NWA world tag champions would be left off....I really think the climbing the cage bits diluted the strength of Thunderdome and slowed the match too much....Ross & Caudle did a solid job and Jim was well prepared with history on the wrestlers. But I just didn't sense the same intensity in this show without a title change....Keith Mitchell did a tight job of direction on this show and the only shot I saw missed was Muta getting crotched near the end of the main event. It was refreshing to see fewer crowd shots.

BEST LINES - Jim Ross, "Luger's chest: you could show a movie off of it." Bob Caudle, on Vicious' helicopter: "I don't like the way he lands that thing." Ross, on Humperdink: "What a pair of eyes! Bette Davis eyes." Caudle, on Vicious' chest: "How'd you like to find a shirt to fit a body like that?" Caudle, on Thunderdome cage: "I don't like a lot of things and electricity's one of them." Gordon Solie, on Luger: "He's been champion more than once, which means he can be beat."

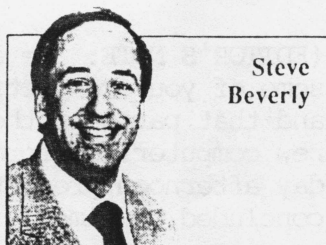
MATWATCH 25 SCALE

Announcing, 4.0; Crowd Enthusiasm, 4.2; Quality of Matches, 2.7; Total Production, 4.0; Overall Excellence of Show, 3.1. **TOTAL RATING:** 18.0.

MATWATCH

Page 3

Vol. 2, No. 19 / Oct. 29 - Nov. 5



Steve
Beverly

I'm occasionally nudged by my academic friend, Dr. Weldon Johnson of University of Illinois-Chicago to write more about the business side of pro wrestling and it's no more appropriate time than in the wake of the seventh pay-per-view cable television ring show in the current year.

What continues to be difficult is getting precisely accurate figures on the megashows. Both of the "big two" promotions tend either slightly or heavily to exaggerate their grosses and while TBS is a publicly-traded company, I'm told the p.r. departments have fudged a few figures on their PPV numbers, in the grand tradition of Titan Sports.

Let's look at how the two groups have fared in pay television and over-the-air/basic cable revenues thus far:

PPV: Titan claimed a gross of \$40 million on WRESTLEMANIA V. But cable operators placed the buy rate at approximately 5.9%, or about 600,000 homes. At an average fee of \$25, the gross ran \$15 million. Videotape, closed circuit and ancillary rights probably swelled the figure to \$22-23 million. But remember, the splits with cable operators and the pay companies knocked Titan's take of subscription revenues down to \$6 million.

The buy-rates on two other WWP shows, ROYAL RUMBLE (1.4%) and SUMMER SLAM (4.9%) drew objective estimates of \$11.3 million combined. With SURVIVOR SERIES, which will likely draw in the 2.5% range, and a NO HOLDS BARRED Christmas show to go, it's been a \$26.3 million year Titan's pay ranks.

For TBS, CHI-TOWN RUMBLE (2.1%), WRESTLE WAR '89 (1.6%) and GLORY DAYS (2.3%), the combined gross is in the neighborhood of \$10 million. None of the NWA shows have been sold to closed circuit, though all have gone the mail-order video route.

By the time the three remaining pay shows air, expect subscription cable revenues for wrestling to hit a record \$50 million before the cable and pay companies get their cuts.

BROADCAST/CABLE AD REVENUES: Here's another creative area that is somewhat easier to gauge. The

WWF sells its combination syndication/cable package at rates which average about \$32,000 per 30-second spot after package deals are figured. On a virtually sold out year, Titan will gross about \$20.5 million, not counting bonuses for any specials for the USA Network.

TBS figures are harder to determine because they involve both local and national sales. The syndie/cable package would draw about \$9.3 million over a year but some make-goods (free additional spots) have had to be provided this year because of the NWA syndicated shows performing under ratings levels promised to advertisers. That will probably knock the gross back to around \$8 million.

officials have told me that despite lower ratings on the weekly NWA cable shows, they all sell out and continue to draw strong numbers locally in Atlanta. But I haven't been able to get estimates on those revenues. But with four hours a week on WTBS, it's a safe bet TV wrestling brings in about \$10 million a year to Ted Turner. That probably does not include the 27 minutes of commercial time TBS takes out of 42 spot minutes on CLASH specials.

All in all, broadcast and cable efforts will generate upwards of \$80 million for the major wrestling companies during 1989. Not exactly chicken feed for an industry which only five years ago was basically a hometown business.

We're beginning preliminary work for our 1989 Matwatch Annual, tentatively titled THE DECADE THAT CHANGED IT ALL. We're shooting for an 80-page yearbook and this year's cost will be \$10.00 for U.S. and Canada subscribers and \$18 for overseas subscribers (air mail costs for the weight are so high, we have to place the rates higher for the international market).

Next week, we will offer our ballot for the BEST OF... categories and two weeks away, our WORST OF... nominees. We will provide you a list of possibilities but you'll be welcome to write in your own selections.

In reviewing the '80s, we will concentrate on what we feel MATWATCH does best: looking at the key TELEVISION events which changed the face of pro wrestling during the decade. In addition, we'll provide you with our second MATWATCH MAN OF THE YEAR, MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR, your awards choices, a new WRESTLING TV LOG, comics---including the return of OSCAR, and the TOP 10 TELEVISION EVENTS in pro wrestling for 1989. We'll have an order form next week.

RATINGS RAP

CABLE

Week Ending Oct. 23	Rating	Share	Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 10/23)	2.8	4.1	1.35 m
NWA W. CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 10/21)	2.6	5.5	1.32 m
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 10/20)	2.6	4.5	1.31 m
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 10/22)	2.5	4.8	1.26 m
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 10/22)	2.4	6.2	1.16 m
NWA POWER (Replay) (TBS 10/21)	0.5	3.6	253,000

(ANALYSIS: A hot week for the NWA, despite some lackluster shows. POWER HOUR scored its all-time high and WCW hit its top spot since March 25. PTW picked up a little steam, bolstered by Freddie Blassie's guest shot. But I have no idea why the sudden NWA resurgence, particularly when that WCW was a bore. Syndication figures were not available this week.)

MATWATCH HOTLINE

826-RING

JARRETT APPARENTLY DROPS CWA
FROM NASHVILLE TELEVISION

MEMPHIS --- Jerry Jarrett promotions is apparently pulling the traditional CWA wrestling series from the Nashville television market.

Sources tell MATWATCH Jarrett has dropped the CWA show in favor of his USWA program from Dallas. This marks the second traditional CWA market in as many weeks to lose the Memphis series.

Insiders close to the Jarrett group deny the moves are a prelude to the shutting down of CWA, something rumored during the year.

KOKO B. WARE REHIRED BY WWF
AFTER EUROPEAN INCIDENT

STAMFORD CT --- Koko B. Ware, axed by the World Wrestling Federation on its recent European tour, has been reinstated.

Ware, bounced after getting into a fight with Titan exec Jim Troy, will sit out until December or January before his return.

Sources say Titan wanted Ware back as he is a featured singer on the new WWF record album, now in development.

ROYAL RUMBLE GETS HOME
IN ORLANDO ARENA

ORLANDO ---The World Wrestling Federation's annual ROYAL RUMBLE will be in the Sunbelt for its third production.

The pay-per-view event, typically the lowest buy among WWF shows for cable subscribers, will originate from the 16,000 seat Orlando Arena, home of the NBA's Orlando Magic Jan. 21.

Defending champion John Studd will not be back to seek a second straight title.

TITAN SETS NEW
TALENT DEVELOPMENT UNIT

STAMFORD CT --- Titan Sports has established a new talent development unit to produce new commercial and endorsement opportunities for its performers.

According to THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, Titan is targeting new slots in home videos, mainline TV programs and advertising for its stars.

Myra Gardner will head the development unit.

*** YOU SAID IT!! ***

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We apologize for the fact that some of you are getting MATWATCH late this week and that parts of the newsletter are not in the new computerized format. A printer problem Sunday afternoon prevented production from being concluded on time.)

Personally, I think Jesse Ventura's sexist comment of, "She's just a woman, what can she do? (on Sherri Martel) was what deserved a BOO AWARD. I'd have expected that kind of moronic line from the NWA but certainly not Titan. Oh sure, Ventura and Heenan have made the same kind of statement regarding Elizabeth but I've taken that as heel announcers insulting a face. Ventura making the same kind of remark about Sherri left a bad taste with me.

JACK THOMPSON
SALT LAKE CITY UT

(FSB: Agreed. BOO on Jesse!)

The (WWF) London arena card I attended on October 10 was brilliant. I suppose you know all about it from your English friends but all in all, it was great and I can't wait until the return, possibly in April.

MATT CALDER
SITTINGBOURNE, KENT, ENGLAND

Although I hate to say it, as he's my all-time favorite wrestler, Ric Flair seems to have much in common with Dusty Rhodes as a booker, in that he seems to push himself and his friends too much, and pushes down someone like Eddie Gilbert, who we all know could be a great mid-level heel, and Missy Hyatt. Since there's always so much talk about the NWA's need for national exposure, to get wrestlers on talk shows and such, don't you think Missy could be used a lot for promotion?

JEFF ZINGER
WOODSTOCK ONTARIO, CANADA

(FSB: Needless to say, a lot of what's going on the NWA is a disappointment and I think its ultimate impact will be judged at the gate. As for the Gilberts, if the NWA won't use them, I'm sure somebody will and well.)

When a "breach" occurs, such as the plastic bag incident on the October CLASH OF CHAMPIONS sirens go off and letters of protest are writ-

(PORTLAND) - [2 Wks. Ago]: PACIFIC NW TITLE: Scotty the Body d. Rex King to regain belt when Jonathan Boyd nails King w. knucks; TV TITLE TOURNEY: Bill Francis d. Moondog Moretti; Boyd d. Beetlejuice by DQ; CHALLENGE: Nord the Barbarian d. Brian Adams by DQ; STRETCHER MATCH: Rip Oliver vs. Grappler ends in brawl. POWERSLAM.

[Last Week]: Carl Stiles d. Al Madril; Francis d. Jeff Warner; Nord vs. Grappler ends in melee; Boyd/Col. DeBeers d. Steve Doll/King; PACIFIC NW TITLE: Scotty vs. Beetlejuice in progress as show ends. DRAW-PLUS.

(CWA) - Jerry Lawler/Dutch Mantel d. Tony Anthony/Mike Davis by DQ; HANDICAP: Soultaker d. Freezer Thompson/David Johnson; Rock & Roll Express d. Wildside; Blackbirds d. Ken Raper/The Warrior; 6-MAN: Dustin Rhodes/Freddy/Plowboy Frazier d. Kevin Dillinger/Rooster Cogburn/Keith Eric. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CWF) - S. Boys d. Intruders; Cactus Jack Manson d. The Panther; ANGLE: Sylvia "cheers up" The Beast & he totes her off amid her protests; Beast d. Chief Little Lyn; Adrian Street & Todd Morton d. African Assassin/Lou Fabiano. BOMB-PLUS....not much here this week.

(USWA) - LOSER LEAVE: Ron Starr/Sheik Brad-dock d. Jeff Jarrett/Matt Borne when Starr pins Borne; B.J. Travis d. Tony Falk; Kerry Von Erich/Chris Adams d. Punisher/T. Bulba. DRAW.

(WWF/USA) - [PTW]: Curt Hennig d. Reno Riggins; Ronnie Garvin d. Tom Burton; Akeem d. Paul Roma; Hercules d. George South; From SNME: Santana-Martel, Hogan-DiBiase; Barry Windmaker d. Jim McPherson; BRO. LUV w. Dusty Rhodes; Jimmy Snuka d. Brooklyn Brawler; Brutus Beefcake d. Greg Valentine. POWERSLAM.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Snuka d. Brawler; Andre/Haku d. Roma/Chuck Coates; Hennig d. Mark Young; Rhodes d. Joe Cruz; Garvin d. Burton; Rick Rude d. Tim Horner; Bret Hart d. Barry Horowitz. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[Superstars]: Rockers d. Mike Scarberry/Ken Arnold; Windmaker d. McPherson; Hercules d. Cruz; Andre/Haku d. Mike Williams/Chuck Casey; Dino Bravo d. Mark Regan; BRO. LUV w. Roddy's Rowdies; Jake Roberts d. Barry Hardy; Twin Towers d. Coates/Dennis Burke. RESTHOLD.

(GA. ALL-STAR) - Chic Donovan/David Sammartino d. Invader/Mighty Yankee; Mr. Wrestling II d. Randy Rose; Ted Allen d. Chief Little Bear; Bullet d. Mr. Atlanta by DQ when Rose

runs in. GROUP CAGE MATCH ends in melee. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WWW]: Road Warriors d. Chris Powers/Mark Kyle; Steiners d. Ric Connors/Italian Stallion; Brian Pillman d. Rock & Roll Rebel; Samoan 3 d. Tommy Rich/Scott Hall/Richard Sartain; Mike Rotunda d. Pat Rose. PEDICINOSE: Halloween Havoc. BOMB-PLUS.

[NWA PRO]: Terry Funk d. Lee Scott; FEATURE: Cornette interviews WOMAN; Sting d. Cowboy Jake Steel; Midnight Express d. Cuban Assassin/Bill Ford; Tom Zenk d. Bill Irwin; Freebirds d. Thad Clark/Agent Steel. BOMB-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: Zenk/Pillman d. N.Z. Militia; Sting d. Irwin. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Funk d. Stallion; (From WWW): Samoan 3 vs. Rich/Hall/Sartain; Animal d. Danny Spivey by DQ when Sid Vicious runs in. Hawk saves & Paul Ellering decks Teddy Long & melee erupts. WNN: Gordon predicts Gary Hart will toss in towel at Thunderdome. FUNK'S GRILL: Kevin Sullivan predicts Terry will lose at T'dome. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WCW]: Sting d. Stallion; Pillman d. Rose; Norman d. Lee Scott; Steiners d. Agent Steel/Ricky Nelson; Steve Williams d. Cruz; Zenk d. Clark; ANGLE: Stan Lane signs M Ex for CLASH IX match vs. Dudes which angers Cornette; SST d. Evans/Hall; M Ex d. Trent Knight/Gene Ligon; Ranger Ross d. Rusty Riddle; Road Warriors d. Connors/Ford; Freebirds d. Tommy Angel/Johnny Kennedy. BOMB-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: Flair d. Rotunda; Zenk d. Irwin; Samoan Savage wins squash. DRAW.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Mercenaries d. Mario Valenzuela/Capt. Oro/Tim Talltree; Mando & Eddie Guerro/Rampalago d. Krusher Krugeroff/Alex Knight/Ricky Ataki; Blue Demon Jr./Bobby Bradley d. Chacal Rivera/El Savage; Lazertron/Mr. Pepto d. El Chicano/Nino Aseno; Super Muneco/Ultraman II d. Ricky Boy/Craizy; Aceio Dorado/Principe Endu d. Superstar/Superboy. DRAW.

(AWA) - AWA TAG SEMIFINALS: Destruction Crew d. Sgt. Slaughter/Baron Von Raschke w. assist from Johnny Valiant. RESTHOLD.

(PWF) - Steve Keirn d. Mike McClaskey; Dennis Knight d. Rock Hard Rick; Ron Slinker d. Mike Awesome; Lou Perez d. Kendall Windham by DQ when Slinker trips up Perez, leading to Slinker-Windham dispute. BOMB-PLUS.

(ICW) - Undertakers d. Kingpin/Chris Michael; Tony Atlas d. Ray Oddyssey; S&S Express d. Jos

Velaquez/Eric Sapracea. BOMB.

(STAMPEDE) - Curtis Thompson d. Steve Gillespie; Angel of Death d. Sumohara; Derringer Bros. win squash; Bruce Hart d. Great Gama by DQ. DRAW.

LINE OF THE WEEK - 1. Freddie Blassie, PTW, on Bobby Heenan: "His father was so embarrassed when he was born, he handed out cigar butts." 2. Roddy Piper, PTW: "Valentine has the same illness as Boobsie. He has a virus in his computer." 3. Ronald V. Gossett, CWA: "There's a woman in the crowd with more hair on her legs than I have on my head. Gillette would have a field day with her." 4. Jerry Lawler, CWA: "Any lady out here's rear end would make her (Dirty White Girl) a sundae-face." 5. Blassie, PTW, to Heenan: "Your office is in your back pocket." 7. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: "The year of the Brain became a brain tumor." 8. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "With a team like this (Andre/Haku), Bobby could sit back and be brain-dead." 9. Heenan, PTW, on Garvin Stomp: "He picked that up from a flamenco dancer down in Juarez." 10. Funk, PH: "Kevin, you say you're an opportunist? A bloodsucker is an opportunist."

11. Piper, WWF: "Cousin Luke has a glass of warm milk every morning with a human hair in it." 12. Tony Schiavone, PTW: "Where was George South? He was looking north." 13. Scotty the Body, Portland: "It's not over 'til Buddy Rose sings." 14. Al Madril & caller, KGW Radio: (CALLER) "What does the C.W. stand for in C.W. Bergstrom?" (AM) "Can't Work." 15. Madril/Caller, KGW: (CALLER) "Al, I remember you from L.A. You used to do a good job. (AM) "I still do good jobs." 16. Vince McMahon, WWF: "Is it Arnold or Scarberry (jobber team)? I guess it's Arnoldberry." 17. Joe Pedicino, NWA, on WWEU Halloween show: "Guys, you sure are ugly. Boni, is that you?" 18. Randall Brown, GASW, on Ted Allen-Jim Powell split: "It's rassing's version of DIVORCE COURT." 19. Stan Lane, NWA, on Cornette: "The world-famous adviser of the Dynamic Dudes." 20. Gossett, CWA: "Did you ever watch WAGON TRAIN? There's 3 wagons in the front row."

21. Gossett/Dave Brown, CWA: (RG) "Make sure you always give me the respect I am due." (DB) "I always do." 22. Tojo Yamamoto, USWA, to Eric Embry: "You blind. Now you get cancer."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Jim Ross, HAVOC, on Samoans' managerial change: "They're a long way from Wall St." 2. Kevin Sullivan, PH:

"Terry Funk, you don't have a Chinaman's chance in Thunderdome."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Gordon Solie, PH: "Can Gary Hart, in good conscience, ring the bell if his team's in trouble?" 2. Piper, PTW, to Heenan: "If you're so doggone rich & from Beverly Hills, how come you ain't got a tan?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. MR. ROOT CANAL (Piper on Heenan). 2. ORCA WINFREY (Funk on Oprah). 3. SEWER OF THE SOUTH (Gossett on Memphis fans). 4. CUEBALL (Samuel Kent on Randall Brown).

BEST PICTURES - 1. HAVOC, Hawk/Vicious staredown. 2. WWF, Sunka glare at Piper. 3. TBS, Ellering decking Long. 4. HAVOC, Closeup of Dr. Death clothesline. 5. TBS, Funk arguing w. lady with bullhorn. 6. Sid Vicious slamming Hawk on rail. 7. HAVOC, SST entrance. 8. USWA, Travis in face of female fan. 9. TBS, Funk piledriving Stallion on chair. 10. WWF, Sean Michaels flying onto both tag opponents.

WORST SINGER - Billy Travis, USWA, doing "We Are Family" and "Lean on Me."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Brown, GASW: "...the tide is turning." 2. Jeff Jarrett, USWA: "fight fire with fire." 3. Solie, WCW: "...all she wrote." 4. Ross, HAVOC: "close but no cigar." 5. Ross, HAVOC: "passed with flying colors."

REVISIONIST HISTORY - Ross, HAVOC: 1) "Terry Funk used the spinning toe hold to win the world heavyweight title." (He small packaged Jack Brisco). 2) On Sting as an ex-Blade Runner: "His former partner has not risen to the same level in his career as has Sting." (Would Ultimate Warrior agree?)

BLOOPER OF THE WEEK - Jesse Ventura, WWF, for calling Mike Scarberry "SCARBOROUGH." Bob Caudle, HAVOC, for "Sweet Bobby & Beautiful Stan."

BOO AWARD - NWA, for saying several times how the Samoans fired "their manager." Come on, we're not so dumb we've forgotten Paul E.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

For the next three people giving gift subscriptions, we offer a HALLOWEEN HAVOC wall poster in full color, plus the usual 2 bonus issues per 7-issue gift set.

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YOU SAID IT!!! (Continued from Page 4)

ten decrying the decay of family entertainment in wrestling. Meanwhile, Hulk Hogan bleeds at WRESTLEMANIA V and nobody squawks. Flair and Funk both juice at the BASH and people call it the brawl of the year.

On a recent WORLD WIDE WRESTLING, Flair was cut in a match against Dick Slater and his head blurred by special effects. The legend CENSORED FOOTAGE appeared on the screen. This harkens back to the Brutus Beefcake/Ron Bass feud.

If this continues, blood and guts will apparently become taboo except during hardcore "money bouts." Will this make a difference? As far as I can see, the only event which would immediately face consequence would be the 4 p.m. airing of WRESTLEMANIA. All other pay-per-views have at least a 7:30 p.m. starting time (ED: Not ALL), so the footage can be screened by adults. I guess it all comes down to discretion being the better part of valor.

JEFF COHEN
GREAT NECK NY

Ric Flair has become the Dusty Rhodes of 1989. And it makes me sick to say it. I have been one of Flair's biggest fans as a wrestler. Your letter in August was right on the button. Ric, stick to the ring and forget the book.

CHARLES JOSEPH
ST. JOSEPH MO

NWA WRESTLING ought to be called Crockett '89 without Jim and David. Who is Flair trying to kid? Next thing you know, we'll have Buzz Tyler, Don Kernodle and Ivan & Nikita back.

ART CREWS
PHILADELPHIA PA

(FSB: Let's not go THAT far. But the mail is not promising on the current regime.)

Let's have an end-of-the-year category for DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE YEAR. Flair and his committee of bookers would win it going away.

ERIC SCHREIBER
MANATEE FL

End the NWA??? What did your wife put in your soup that night? The promotion may need a lot of work but you can't just drop the National Wrestling Alliance name and expect things to turn around. Why not try to improve things from within and preserve the label? Too many NWA fans would be upset about ending that tradition.

ROB BRACKEN
CHARLOTTE NC

(FSB: They would? Maybe so...but there sure seem to be fewer of them going to the arenas and I think the name NWA really dispels an old image that needs to be revamped. But---you may be right.)

I wanted to thank both MATWATCH and the readers who helped bring PWF WRESTLING and other independent promotions to the Sunshine Network (Florida sports cable service). Who knows? We may even get to see such tag combinations as Lou Perez and Brad Armstrong or maybe Dick Slater and the Raging Bull? Anything is possible.

JENNY MEDECK
ST. AUGUSTINE FL

TUBE TALK

The early phone pollsters are giving 43% positive, 46% negative and 11% average or so-so ratings to HALLOWEEN HAVOC (based on 41 calls through Sunday at 6 p.m.)....Keith Mitchell deserves a big pat for quality direction with a substitute camera crew. The usual NWA firstliners were doing SEC FOOTBALL....PWF plugged "\$10 a carload" for its Sunday Night at the Fights in Orlando. Sounds like an old drive-in movie promotion....Next weekend, two title matches on AWA & WWF: Destruction Crew vs. Greg Gagne/Paul Diamond on ESPN and Tully & Arn vs. Demolition on SUPERSTARS....I know some younger viewers think he's old hat but it was nice to see Gordon Solie back on WCW.

NEW MATWATCH HOTLINE NUMBER:

(205) 826-RING

CALLING HOURS: (Eastern Time) 12 Noon to 12 Midnight, Monday through Friday.
1 p.m. to 12 Midnight, Saturday.
5 p.m. to 12 Midnight, Sunday.

MATWATCH

Page 8

Vol. 2, No. 19 / Oct. 30-Nov. 5

COMINGS & GOINGS

EARLY LINE: Initial betting on STARRCADE will be a "Master of the Ring" competition with the top 4 NWA stars: Flair, Sting, Muta and Luger in a round-robin where everyone wrestles everyone else in the same night. It's possible they may do the same thing with the 4 top tag teams. As of now, there is no Tully Blanchard or Arn Anderson listed for the card.

NEW TV KING: Al Madril won the Pacific Northwest TV title in a tourney final not shown on the weekly Portland show. Madril & Jonathan Boyd appeared on a call-in show on KGW in the area and I'm told Madril was hilarious.

CWF TRAVELS: Looks as though Jimmy Golden's appearances in CWF will be very limited from here on. Living in Knoxville is a hardship for Golden since Ron Fuller sold territorial rights for the eastern Tennessee area to the NWA.

MORE CHANGES: Cactus Jack Manson appears headed to replace Golden as Brian Lee's tag partner in CWF. Cactus looks as though his shoulder has healed nicely. But he ought to be getting more singles competition.

COOLING COOLEY: Wendell Cooley quit CWF in the middle of his feud with Dennis Condrey because after some Tennessee dates, Cooley received a weekly check for only 3 nights of work & said he couldn't make it on the pay. He'll work dates for Ron West's new North American promotion.

NACW NOTES: We're trying to get a peek at the first taping of the North American show, which still has not aired in Knoxville or Chattanooga, to our knowledge. A number of the former SCW (now Georgia All-Star) guys appeared.

LOVE STAR KERRY: Kerry Von Erich beat The Punisher in Dallas for the Texas heavyweight title but it won't show up on syndicated TV for about 2 more weekends.

STILL FREE: Forget Terry Gordy returning to the NWA, at least for now. He showed up at the USWA show weekend before last and got into a scrap with Jerry Lawler. But it's a shame because some Flair-Gordy matches could have been tremendous.

SELLING TOYOTA: Joe Pedicino & Boni Blackstone now appearing in a new series of commercials in Atlanta for a new Toyota dealership.

VIVA LA LUCHE: Red Bastien taped 6 more hours of Lucha Libre over the weekend in L.A. Fans were expecting Black Gordman to appear again for the first time in 7 years. Tim Talltree, one of the rookies, is said to be an excellent worker and is the son of former Assassin Tom Renesto.

ROLLERTROUBLES: Qintex Entertainment, distributor for ROLLERGAMES, has filed for Chapter 11. Sams-Miller Productions, which initially financed the revival, is taking over syndication. Advertisers were promised a 7 rating for the shows but after seven weeks, the average is only 3.8.

SNME SOARS: The ballyhooed battle of CRASH TV vs. SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT is a dud. The first SNME of the fall drew a fine 9.6 and 27 share, comfortably handling the competition.

WHERE, OH WHERE?: NWA continues to be plagued by no-show problems which have to be addressed. Seven guys no-showed in Charleston, WV last week. Part of it was being explained as a foulup in plane tickets, which saw some guys miss connections in Pittsburgh. Shane Douglas was out with a legit injury and Steve Williams took off home.

LOOKING AT LAWLER: The latest effort of the local Memphis publication, the MEMPHIS VOICE, has a cover story profile on Jerry Lawler, calling him a man "still hard to pin down." Lawler reflects back on the Andy Kaufman angles and hints at his future political plans.

BIRD SUBS: A late surprise over the weekend with PWF. Jumbo Baretta & Dennis Knight, major names they, were sked-ded to defend the Florida tag belts in Orlando Sunday vs. Vernon Henderson & some equally legendary jobber. But Iceman Parsons & Brickhouse Brown were announced as subs.

RUMBLING IN ORLANDO: Speaking of Central Florida, our good friends KLOM Herron & Ron Lemieux are dickering for front row seats for the WWF ROYAL RUMBLE in January at the Orlando Arena.

GET WELL WISHES: A special get well to 1988's MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR Dan Gibson, who broke his arm in a fall. He's having therapy to rehabilitate the area. Hope you're up and at 'em real soon, Mr. G.

A COMMENT: On the USWA arena program. My friend, Dennis Brent, used to publish the WORLD CLASS programs and they were of first class quality, well-written and a lot of care had been taken with the pictures. I don't know who is doing them now but I was sent a copy of the most recent USWA bulletin and three of the pictures are indistinguishable and the quality of the type is lacking.

USA SPECIAL: The USA Network SURVIVOR SERIES PREMIER, which airs over 3 hours Nov. 12, will probably air at least four times before Thanksgiving. Hercules vs. Randy Savage and Tito Santana vs. Bossman will be featured.

FALSE ALARMS: I've had call after call about this ballyhooed Northeast independent show which allegedly will feature Paul E. Dangerously, Terry Taylor, Honky Tonk Man and Ricky Steamboat. Don't believe it for a second. Also, I have had no substance to a report from at least a dozen callers that Tony Atlas is coming to the NWA.

THE ANNUAL: Our MATWATCH 1989 Annual: THE DECADE THAT CHANGED IT ALL will sell for \$10.00 to all U.S. and Canada subscribers and \$18.00 to all overseas subscribers. You can send a check now...but to all who give an annual as a gift, you will receive a bonus of 2 additional issues of MATWATCH.

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